

impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does not involve any historic sites. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Accordingly, the NRC concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

As an alternative to increasing the spent fuel storage capacity at Vermont Yankee, the licensee considered shipment to another reactor site or away-from-reactor storage facility, e.g. shipment of spent fuel to a Federal fuel storage or disposal facility. This alternative was determined not to be feasible due to the unavailability of an offsite storage facility.

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action (i.e., the "no-action" alternative). Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on December 13, 1999, the staff consulted with the Vermont State Official, William Sherman, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

Finding of No Significant Impact

On the basis of the environmental assessment, the NRC concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the NRC has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated September 4, 1998, as supplemented on February 8, April 16, August 26, September 16, and November 17, 1999.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 14th day of December 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Richard P. Croteau,

Project Manager, Section 2, Project Directorate I, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Notice of Consideration of Amendment Request for Decommissioning the Fort McClellan Facility in Fort McClellan, Alabama, and Opportunity for a Hearing

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is considering issuance of a license amendment to Nuclear Materials License No. 01-02861-05, issued to the Department of the Army's Chemical School, to authorize decommissioning of a radioactive waste burial mound located at the Pelham Range at Fort McClellan, Alabama.

The licensee has been decommissioning the Chemical School radiological training facilities at Fort McClellan in accordance with the conditions discussed in License No. 01-02861-05. On September 9, 1999, the licensee submitted a decommissioning plan to NRC for review that summarized the activities that will be undertaken to remediate the radioactive waste burial mound located at the Pelham Range. The radioactive contamination consists of soil contaminated with byproduct material resulting from licensed activities that occurred from the late 1950s until the mid 1970s.

The NRC will require the licensee to remediate the Fort McClellan facility to meet NRC's decommissioning criteria, and during the decommissioning activities, to maintain effluents and doses within NRC requirements and as low as reasonably achievable.

Prior to approving the decommissioning plan, NRC will have made findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and NRC's regulations. These findings will be documented in an Environmental Assessment. Approval of the decommissioning plan will be documented in an amendment to License No. 01-02861-05.

The NRC hereby provides notice that this is a proceeding on an application for amendment of a license falling within the scope of Subpart L "Informal Hearing Procedures for Adjudication in Materials Licensing Proceedings," of

NRC's rules and practices for domestic licensing proceedings in 10 CFR Part 2. Pursuant to § 2.1205(a), any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding may file a request for a hearing in accordance with § 2.1205(a). A request for hearing must be filed within thirty (30) days of the date of publication of this **Federal Register** notice.

The request for a hearing must be filed with the Office of the Secretary either:

1. By delivery to the Docketing and Service Branch of the Secretary at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852-2738; or
2. By mail or telegram addressed to the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555. Attention: Docketing and Service Branch.

In addition to meeting other applicable requirements of 10 CFR Part 2 of the NRC's regulations, a request for a hearing filed by a person other than the applicant must describe in detail:

1. The interest of the requester in the proceeding;
2. How that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding, including the reasons why the requestor should be permitted a hearing, with particular reference to the factors set out in § 2.1205(g); and
3. The requester's areas of concern about the licensing activity that is the subject matter of the proceeding; and
4. The circumstances establishing that the request for a hearing is timely in accordance with § 2.1205(c).

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.1205(e) each request for a hearing must also be served, by delivering it personally or by mail, to:

1. The applicant, U.S. Army Chemical School, ATTN: ATSN-CM, 401 Engineer Loop, Ft. Leonard Wood, MO 65473-8928, Attention: Commandant; and
2. The NRC staff, by delivery to the executive Director for Operations, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852, or by mail, addressed to the Executive Director for Operations, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555.

For further details with respect to this action, the site decommissioning plan will be available for review on the NRC's Public Electronic Reading Room.

Dated at Atlanta, Georgia, this 7th day of December, 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Douglas M. Collins,

Director, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety.

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